

### **Gerald Ihra**

Born in 1961 in Vienna, I graduated at the University of Vienna in 1989 and started my scientific work at the Royal Free Hospital, London School of Medicine. In 1992 I joined the department of anesthesiology and intensive care medicine at the General Hospital in Vienna, from 1996 on concentrating on clinical and technical aspects of jet-ventilation. Results of these studies on a special type of jet application characterized by the simultaneous delivery of two pressurized gas streams were published subsequently [J. Clin. Anesth., 11:32(1999); Brit. J. Anaesth., 83:940(1999), Acta Anaesth. Scand. 44:475(2000)].

Colleagues interested in jetventilation in general may find valuable informations in a review published in the Eur. J. Anaesth. 17:418(2000), or may contact me directly for a visit to our university department and our jet-patients in the OR.

### **General Hospital in Vienna**

The history of the Vienna General Hospital reaches back more than three hundred years (1693). As the result of the reconstruction of the "Home for the Poor and Invalid", which was founded by the Emperor Leopold I in 1693, it housed more than 1000 poor people in 1696. Rededicated by Emperor Joseph II it became the "General Hospital for the Sick" 1784. In the decades which followed, the development of new forms of diagnosis and therapy necessitated the continuous addition of annexes. In the 19th century, a new era of the Vienna School of Medicine began. Carl von Rokitansky, Ferdinand von Hebra, Franz Schuh and Ignaz Semmelweis were the pioneers of that time.

The new Vienna General Hospital, which was officially opened on 7 June 1994, now provides 2206 beds (including 165 intensive care beds), with 1574 doctors and 2784 nurses caring for the patients. The main building consists of an 11-storey flat building and, on top of it, two 14-storey ward towers. The General Hospital Vienna is both a central hospital and the seat of the clinics of the Medical University of Vienna. Among colleagues of 27 university clinics and 8 university institutes, anesthesiologists take care of patients treated in 51 operation theatres and 7 recovery rooms, intensive care patients, and students of the Medical University of Vienna.